M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

CALIFORNIA
LIBRARY
MAY 2 - 1949
RECEIVED
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE GULL
MONTHLY BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

Volume 31 San Francisco, California, May, 1949 Number 5

California Audubon Convention

This third State Convention of the National Audubon Society and its California branches and affiliates was held at Asilomar April 1 - 3, 1949. The former ones being held in 1941 and 1942.

Dr. W. A. Angwin, President of Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, our Host, welcomed the Audubon groups and those representing material and human Conservation activities. Mr. John Baker, President of National Audubon Society, presided at the meetings, which were attended by some 300 interested persons.

The Keynote speech "Conservation Education is Basic to Human Welfare" a thot-provoking and challenging subject, was impressively presented by Dr. T. Eric Reynolds, past president of our own Society.

This theme "Conservation of our Natural Resources" and what is being done about it, was reported upon by delegates of the many groups from various parts of the State and from Government officials. Many informative and stimulating reports were heard, among them, one by our President, Mrs. Ethel E. Richardson. It was inspiring to learn what could be accomplished by enthusiastic efforts of even a few people. We realize that the protection of birds, our primary and original goal, is tied up with the saving of all our resources.

The exhibit of original bird paintings, among them many by our Vice-president, Harry C. Adamson, was a source of much interest and admiration.

The movies of the Texas and California Audubon Nature Camps were much enjoyed and Laurel Reynolds' new film, "Birds of a Feather," fascinated us with the mass flights of the birds and with the humorous side-lights of the human birds in their photo activities.

Field trips in the vicinity and an auto trip on the 17 mile drive and to Cypress Point and Point Lobos, where oyster catchers, brown pelicans with scarlet necks in nuptial plumage, and sora and virginia rails in the tules of Carmel River, were high lights for the "Birders". Even the weather co-operated and presented a perfect week-end.

It is a memorable experience, meeting with, and hearing from, those who are working for a worthy goal. May we all contribute our bit in this upward strife!

A Gulls' Feast

Thousands of sea gulls gathered at Point Richmond, San Francisco Bay during the latter part of March to feast on the billions of herring eggs washed up on the beaches.

The eggs, which resembled endless chains of small tapioca, were so numerous as to form a spongy carpet over an area of hundreds of feet, and to a depth of eight to ten inches.

Last year many of the herring were caught by the ebbing tide and could be picked up and eaten by the dwellers at the Point, but this year the fish were smarter and all got away after laying their eggs in the shallow waters.

It was quite a sight to see the thousands of gulls rising from the water in clouds or resting in flotillas at the edge of the water.

Mrs. Ethel Richardson came out to witness this phenomena and took some of the eggs home to her feeding tray but apparently her bird customers did not share the enthusiasm of the gulls for the herring eggs.

Jacqueline Watkins

FEBRUARY — Special Field Trip

The dark drizzly morning of February 26, 1949 did not dampen the ardor of the 14 bird lovers who met at the Conservatory in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, the first week-day trip of the year. The group, led by Mr. Arthur Bennett, explored the area around the Conservatory and several lakes. 6 members and 8 guests, 7 of whom were Boy Scouts, enjoyed the birding.

Those present were: Mr. & Mrs. Myer; Mrs. Hulett and Bentley; Misses Engebretson and Sterne; Mr. Bennett and Scouts, Hofman, Lucas, Malville, Mersereau, Miller, Rendahl and Van Dreten.

The following 32 species were observed:

Grebe, Eared
Pied-billed
Mallard
Baldpate
Pintail
Shoveller
Duck, Ring-necked
Canvas-back
Lesser Scaup
Coot
Ruddy
Gull, Glaucous-winged
Western
California
Band-tailed Pigeon
Flicker, Red-shafted
Phoebe, Black
Jay, California
Chickadee, Chestnut-bk.
Bush-Tit
Nuthatch, Red-bd.
Robin
Thrush, Varied
Hermit
Kinglet, Ruby-cr.
Sparrow, English
Pine Siskin
Towhee, Spotted
Junco, Oregon
Sparrow, White-cr.
Fox
Song

Ethel L. Myer, Historian.

MARCH — Special Field Trip

Saturday, March 26 a trip was taken to the Camp Tahloma area of Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley Hills. A circuit of Jewel Lake was made, after parking cars at the entrance to Camp Tahloma. In the afternoon part of the group drove to the Bear Creek road and did some birding in that vicinity.

The weather was ideal for this time of year. It was warm and the sky was clear. About 14 members were present.

Thirty-seven species of birds were noted as follows:

Great Blue Heron
Turkey Vulture
Cooper Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
California Quail
Coot
Rufous Hummingbird
Allen Hummingbird
Red-shafted Flicker
California Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Black Phoebe
Western Flycatcher
Violet-green Swallow
Steller Jay
California Jay
Chestnut-backed
Chickadee
Plain Titmouse
Bush-Tit
White-breasted
Nuthatch
Wren-Tit
BewickWren
Varied Thrush
Western Bluebird
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Hutton Vireo
Orange-crowned Warbler
Pileolated Warbler
Brewer Blackbird
Pine Siskin
Spotted Towhee
Brown Towhee
Oregon Junco
White-crowned Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Song Sparrow

L. **Richard Leinbach**, Historian.

The many great blue herons and their nests in an enormous eucalyptus tree, adjacent to the Water Co.'s repair building on the San Pablo Dam road, was a notable event.

APRIL — Special Field Trip

On Saturday, April 8th, 1949, 20 members and guests spent a most interesting morning at Alameda. Thanks to Mrs. Kelly, the tide was just right. There were literally thousands of shore birds, many so obligingly tame that they could be easily seen by the naked eye. The weather was balmy and bright.

After about two hours of exciting observations, we sat on the softest rock-pile to be found, to eat our lunch, meanwhile keeping a watch on some willets flying up & down in front of us, also a Hudsonian curlew and a few godwits and beautiful black-bellied plovers in Spring plumage. After lunch we continued to the garbage dump to observe the gulls and predators, and so home.

Mr. Harold Peterson led the group. Thirty-eight species were observed.

Heron, Great Blue
Blacked-cr. Night
Teal, Green-winged
Shoveller
Duck, Ring-necked
Lesser Scaup
Scoter, White-winged
Ruddy Duck
Hawk, Sparrow
Coot
Plover, Semipalmated
Killdeer
Black-bellied
Curlew, Long-billed
Hudsonian
Willet
Knot
Sandpiper, Least
Red-backed
Dowitcher
Sandpiper, Western
Godwit, Marbled
Avocet
Gull, Glaucous-winged
Western
California
Gull, Bonaparte
Tern, Forster
Swallow, Barn
Pipit, American
Sparrow, English
Meadowlark, Western
Blackbird, Red-winged
Brewer
Finch, House
Sparrow, Savannah
White-crowned
Song

Alison Berry, Historian.

Our Name

Owing to lack of a quorum at the April meeting, it was impossible to vote upon the matter, as had been announced in the April Gull.

This change to GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, had been recommended by the board of Directors, as noted in the April Gull and will be taken up as "unfinished business" at the next meeting, if a quorum is present.

The following "quotes" are from a letter received from Mr. C. B. Lastreto, President in 1919; "my heart was wrung by the proposition to discard the name that had long identified a Society with a proud history. But the reasons are good and your ambition to encompass 'all sides of San Francisco Bay' is more within possible and appropriate realization than had been their hope.' (the committee) In regard to our Seal: "The poor old Larus Californicus was more characteristically correct before the artist's pains, to the last tip of primary and secondary, had become effaced by wear and tear. But note the point of land, yes Land's End, on the dexter side, that located the picture of the 'evanescent spectre o'er the Bay' and now completes it as the 'Golden Gate' of our Society! (Mr. Lastreto assumed that the change of name had been voted).

High Lights of The April Meeting

Persistent effort is being made by the Salt Marsh Bird Refuge Committee to save the shore line of Bay Farm Island from becoming a garbage fill. The matter is before the Alameda City Council.

The Butano Forest and Tuolumne Pines projects are now before the State Legislature. You may help be writing your Representives, urging a favorable vote on appropriations for conserving these majestic trees.

Mr. R. L. Judd, by courtesy of the Standard Oil Company, showed two fascinating films; "Seashore Oddities" by Harold Oliver Jr. and Mysteries of Plant Life" by Arthur Pillsbury.

May Meeting

The 380th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on May 12th at 7:30 p. m. in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts.

Our society is privileged to have as speaker Mr. Vaughan MacCaughey, Editor, Sierra Educational News. His subject will be "In Ancient Hawaii." Mr. MacCaughey lived in the Hawaiian Islands for fifteen years, where he made a study of the culture of the primitive Polynesians. He will paint fascinating word pictures (as only Mr. MacCaughey can!) of the amazing feather garments made by these people for ceremonial purposes. He will describe the brilliant birds of the islands whose extermination was the result of these customs. This will be an outstanding program. Bring your friends to share a stimulating experience.

There will be a no-host dinner, preceding the meeting, at the Whitcomb Hotel at six p. m.

Laurel Reynolds,
Program Chairman.

May Field Trip

St. Mary's College will be visited on Sunday, the 15th. Transportation will be by private cars. Those coming from San Francisco take 7:40 a. m. "E"" train to end of line,
One pick-up for the East Bay will be there, the other, at Broadway and College Ave., Oakland, both at 8:15 a. m. The route to St. Mary's is thru the Broadway Tunnel to Orinda Crossroads, then right to Moraga, then left to the College. The leader, A. Laurence Curl. Bring lunch, binoculars and interested friends.

Special Field Trip

On Saturday, May 28 to the central part of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meet at 10th and Fulton Sts. at 8:30 a. m. Area around Pioneer Cabin, Stow Lake and Arboretum will be visited. Bring binoculars and interested friends and lunch if desired.

Audubon Association of the Pacific
Organized January 25, 1917
For the Study and the Protection of Birds
Branch of National Audubon Society

President.....Mrs. Ethel Richardson.....887 Indian Rock Ave., Berkeley 7
Corresponding Secretary.. .....Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....Miss Ivander MacIver.....2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
Editor.....Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.
Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco
Alternate months Oakland.
Joint membership, Local & National $5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine
Local dues only, $1.50 per year. Student Membership, 75 cents.